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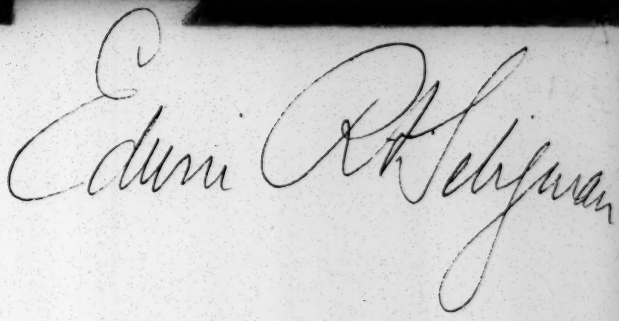

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c 1655 ?
cf p. 78

A full and true Relation of the whole Transactions of the Company of Vintners, the Farmers, and Co-adventurers, as to the Farmes of 40 s. per *Tun, and Wine Licenses, and the* Medium.

ON the sixth of *November*, 1637, at a general meeting of all Retailers of Wines in *London*, *Westminster*, and the Confines thereof at Vintners Hall, the generality made choice of Alderman *Abel*, then Master of their Company, *Edward Kynaston*, *Ralph More* Wardens, *Rowland Wilson*, *Thomas Hutchinson*, *William Bowyer* Esquires, *Robert Shaw*, and *Joseph Graves*, *George Hulbert*, *Michael Gardiner*, *Thomas Langton*, and *John Wilcoxe*, or any three or more of them,

(whereof the Maſter and the chief Warden to to be one) to deal for the generality touching an advancement of price upon retail of Wines ſuppreſſing the Coopers, a general pardon, and divers other benefits to be granted by his Majeſty to the retailing Vintners: But the Committee was not to conclude any thing therein without the conſent of the generality of Retailers, as by the Order made that day at Vintners Hall may appeare.

The Committee proceeded therein accordingly by and with the advice, conſent, and direction of the generality from time to time, as appears by their own Orders at Vintners Hall, which are here faithfully ſet down, as they were truly tranſcribed, and compared with their Book of Orders there.

The Orders are in theſe words,

ſe were the iſtants be- s the gene- y.

22 *Die* Novemb. 1637. Maſter *Abel* Alderman, Maſter: Maſter *Kinaſton*, Maſter *More*, Maſter *Courtman*, Wardens, Maſter *Bowyer*, Maſter *Davis*, Maſter *Robert Shaw*, Maſter *Wilde*, Maſter *Bonomy*, Maſter *King*, Maſter *Darling*, Maſter *Leechland*, Maſter *Hamond*, Maſter *Griffith*, Maſter *Hulbert*, maſter *Field*, maſter *Gardiner*.

neral rt.

At this Court all the vintners and others Retailers of wine in *London*, *Weſtminſter*, and the parts there-

thereunto adjoyning were warned to meet together at the Vintners Hall in *London*, the greater number whereof there appeared, and upon report made to them by the Committees formerly chosen by them, what was demanded for his Majesty. It was assented unto by the generality, that the Committees might yeeld to pay forty shillings upon a tun, provided that they might be assured to have from his *Majesty* the immunities and benefits proposed, the which their assents was shewed and expressed by holding up of their hands, and they to report their proceedings to the Court from time to time.

The immunities and benefits were then put into writing by the Clarke of Vintners Hall, and were comprehended in eleven heads or Articles, and intituled: *The humble desires of the* Retaylers *of Wines* and were Presented together with a petition to his Maiesty a true Copy of both which here followeth.

The Petition of the retailing Vintners of London, *and their Propoſitions and Demands contrived and made amongſt themſelves at their Hall, in* November 1637. *Wherehy it may appeare who projected the penny a Quart on Wines.*

To the Kings moſt Excellent Majeſtie.

The humble Petition of your Majeſties Loyall Subjects, the Vintners and Retailers of Wines, Freemen of the City of London.

Moſt humbly ſheweth,

THat whereas the Company of Vintners of *London*, hath anciently in times paſt, been a flouriſhing Company, and hath had and en-

enjoyed ſundry ancient Priviledges and Immunities, whereby the Freemen of that Company have in the exerciſe of their Calling, become men of eminent place and authority in this your City of *London*.

May it pleaſe your moſt excellent Majeſty to be informed, that of late times, the Wine Coopers have ſo invaded the priviledges, and intruded into the Trade and Profeſſion of the Vintners, as that the ſaid ancient Company is much decayed thereby and impoveriſhed, and like further to decline, unleſſe by your Princely Clemencie the ſame be reſtored and upheld. And therefore your humble Petitioners, proſtrating themſelves at the feet of your ſacred Majeſty, do moſt humbly pray your Majeſty wil be graciouſly pleaſed to reſtore them to their ancient freedom in the uſe of their profeſſion. And withal (for the better enabling them to do your Majeſty ſervice, and go on cheerfully in their Callings) and to grant unto them ſuch further additions of your Princely Favours and Immunities, as are conteined and expreſſed in the Schedule annexed, and to pardon all their Delinquencies and tranſgreſſions paſt.

And in an humble and thankful acknowledgment of your Majeſties ſo ample and royal favours extended to them, your humble Suppliants will with a free and unanimous conſent pay to your Majeſties uſe, and your royal Succeſſors the ſum of 2*l.* for every Tun of Wine, which they ſhal hereafter retail or vend within this your Kingdom, and as in duty bound wil ever pray.

The

The humble desires of the Retailors of Wines.

THat all Merchants and others Importers of Wines into the Ports of London, may be enjoyned to sell their Wines to none but Retailors of Wines, being Vinters, to the end your Majesty may have 2l. on the Tun, upon all the Wines that shall be imported, whereby the Merchants and others may not undersel the Vintners, and deprive your Majesty of the said 2l. on the Tun aforesaid, and the said Vintners be hindred both in their whole Sale and Retail.

2 That no Retailors of Wines, and other Buyers of Wines, within any place or places of this Realme, be permitted to buy any Wines at any Port or places within this Realm, unlesse the said Retailors or Buyers, do pay the aforesaid 2l. on the Tun to his Majesty, otherwise it will come to passe that all Retailors and other Buyers of Wines will furnish themselves, to save the 2l. a Tun, and neglect the free Vintners of London.

3 That all Coopers and others may be restrained from intruding into the Vintners Trade, buying or selling Wines either in grosse or by retail for time to come.

4 That all free Vintners may dresse and sell Victuals, Beer, Sugar and Tobacco in their Houses in London, or elswhere as anciently they have done heretofore, they buying their Tobacco of any licensed to sell it.

5 That

5 *That there may be a repayment by way of defalcation of the* 6000 li. *which the Vintners payed into your Majeſties receit of the Exchequer, for a great part whereof they pay Intereſt at this day.*

6 *That the granting of Licenſes to retayle Wines within* London *and three miles compaſſe, may be hereafter and hence forth reſtrained, and none to be hereafter granted, And alſo that the free Vintners may have power according to their ancient Charter to draw wines freely in the four principall Roads, and all Cities and Port Towns within this Realm.*

7. *That his Majeſty will be graciouſly pleaſed to grant to all free Vintners and retaylors of Wines his his moſt gracious, generall, and free pardon for all delinquencies and tranſgreſſions whatſoever by them committed in the exerciſe of their Trade, either by whole ſale or retail to this day, And alſo a confirmation of their ancient Charter with liberty to adventure for Wine of all ſorts, with ſuch additions as it ſhall pleaſe your Majeſty to conferre on them, and to be annexed to their Charter.*

8 *That all Retailors of Wines within* London *and three miles thereof, may be reduced to be Freemen of the Company of Vintners, for the better government of their trade in general.*

9 *That your Majeſtie will be graciouſly pleaſed to grant to the ſaid free Vintners licence to ſell at* 1d. *a quart, over and above the prices yeerly ſet by the Lords of the Council; whereby they may be enabled to pay to your Majeſty* 2l. *upon the Tun.*

10 *That high Country Wines in regard of their extraordinary prices and ſmall Cask, may be ſold*

at

at 1*d. a quart, above the rate allowed for ordinary French Wines.*

11 *That if his Majesty hereafter shall be graciously pleased to let to farm the said* 2*l. per Tun; Then that the Company of Vintners may be admitted to farm the same before any other.*

Whereby, and by the said Order of the 22 of *November*, it appears that the demand of liberty to raise 1 d. 2 d. a quart, and the offer 40 s. a tun, proceeded originally from the generality of the Vintners, and as it was their voluntary offer and project, so every Article of their desires is for the benefit of each drawing Vintner, the Clark of the Company put the said Articles into writing in the Common Hall, as the several drawing Vintners directed and dictated to him.

These the Assistants this day.

The next meeting at Vintners Hall was on the 27 of *November*, 1637. The Order thus.

27 *Die Novemb.* 1637, *Reg. Car.* 13. *William Abel* Alderman Master, Master *More*, Master *Courtman*, Wardens, Master *Wilson*, Master *Bowyer*, Master *Shaw*, Master *Bludworth*, Master *Bonamy*, Master *King*, Master *Robert Lee*, Master *Griffith*, Master *Hulbert*, Master *Baily*, Master *Gardiner*.

At this Court upon relation made by our Master of the passage of the business referred to him and other Committees, touching the payment of 40 s. on a tun to his Majestie for Wines retailed, and upon reading of the Petition prepared to be delivered to his Majesty with the several reasons thereto

thereto annexed. It is ordered that the maſter together with the former Committees appointedby the court ſhall proceed in that buſineſſe as they ſhall from time to time find expedient, acquainting this court with their proceedings.

By theſe orders it is manifeſt, that this project was the worke of the generall company of drawing vintners, for they choſe the Committee, they take account of the Committee, and they order and direct the Committee to proceed, acquainting them with their proceedings. In all which Alderman *Abel* was but one of the Committee choſen and employed by his Company for their publick ſervice; and neither he nor any particular man, but the drawing vintners had, or could have any private intereſt or end. For Alderman *Abel* had given over his trade long before.

The next Order was the ſeventh of *February*, in theſe words, *viz.*

Septimo die Februarii, 1637, *Reg. Car.* 13.

Maſter *Abel* Alderman Maſter, Maſter *Kinaſton*, Maſter *More*, maſter *Courtman*, Wardens, Maſter *Wilſon*, Maſter *Hutchinſon*, maſter *Bowyer*, Maſter *Davies*, Maſter *Robert Shaw*, Maſter *Bludworth*, maſter *Bonamy*, Maſter *King*, Maſter *Darling*, maſter *Conradus*, Maſter *Griffith*, Maſter *Hulbert*, Maſter *Field*, Maſter *Aſhwell*, maſter *Gardiner*. These were Aſſiſtants beſides the generality.

This day all the Retailors of Wines inhabitants within the City of *London*, and adjacent A generall Court.

places being warned to appear at this Court, the greater number of them appeared: To whom the Maſter related what had been further propounded in that buſineſſe now in agitation with his Majeſty, and amongſt other things, that his Majeſty was pleaſed to accept of forty ſhillings a tun for wines retailed, and likewiſe for the farm thereof thirty thouſand pound a yeer, but his majeſty would not contract with the whole generality, but with ſome particular men of ability, to whom his majeſty may reſort for the performance of that which ſhall be contracted for, and thereupon the ſaid maſter propounded to the generality.

Firſt, whether they did hold and confirm their former reſolution to pay forty ſhillings a tun for all Wines to be retailed, and

Secondly, whether they would accept of the Farm thereof at thirty thouſand pounds a yeer: To both which Propoſitions with an unanimous conſent, they agreed and declared their conſents, by holding up their hands.

And likewiſe it was alſo conſidered for furtherance of the proceeding in the ſaid buſineſſe, that ten perſons ſhould be named, who ſhould contract with his majeſty, in ſuch manner as learned Council ſhould adviſe, and for that purpoſe the generality did nominate *William Abel* Alderman, *Rowland Wilſon*, *Thomas Hutchinſon*, *William Bowyer*, Eſquires, *Robert Shaw*, *Edward Kynaſton*, *Ralph More*; *Jacob Bonamy*, *George Hulbert* Eſquire, and *Michael Gardiner* Citizens, and vintners of *London*; with this, that if any of the ſaid

ten

ten ſhould refuſe to take upon him to be one of the ſaid Contractors, that then another ſhould be choſen in his ſteed, and thoſe ten to contract with his Majeſty, and to ſtand engaged for payment of the farm rent at the times, and in the manner to be agreed upon, and it was thought neceſſary and agreed, that the ſaid ten ſhould take unto them ſo many as ſhonld make up thirty, who ſhould under write, and bring in every man a thouſand pounds, for ſo much thereof, as ſhould be thought expedient from time to time to disburſe, and that every of them ſhould ratably according to their ſummes disburſed receive profit, if the buſineſſe proved profitable, aud likewiſe to beare their proportionable ſhares of charges and loſſe, if the buſineſſe ſhall not happen to produce profit, but loſſe.

By this order it is to be obſerved, firſt, that as this project had his birth at Vintners Hall, being there contrived by the generality of drawing Vintners, ſo it was ſtill proſecuted by the generality, for the greateſt number of them appeared at this Court.

Secondly, That the generality confirmed it with an unanimous conſent, not one contradicting it.

Thirdly, That for furtherance of the buſineſſe the generality nominated Alderman *Abel* then Maſter, and nine more Vintners, who ſhould contract with his Majeſty on the Companies behalf, becauſe his Majeſty would not contract with the generality.

Which ſhewes with what cheerfulneſſe and earneſt deſire they proſecuted the effecting of the project; and this convinceth thoſe that pretend that the Vintners were perſwaded, or threatned by Alderman *Abel*, the Alderman did not, nor needed to perſwade them, for they nominated and ingaged him. And had not this and nine other Orders of their Hall clearly manifeſted with what earneſt deſires, and unanimous aſſents they contrived and proſecuted it, they would have out-faced all truth. But againſt their own orders what can be replied.

And none doe teſtifie any words of perſwaſion or threats, but thoſe that are parties and delinquents in the higheſt degree.

1 Parties to the originall contriving the Project.

2 Parties to the Indenture of creation of the project, and

3 Parties that took benefit by the project, ſo they all ſpeak in excuſe of themſelves.

At another general Court, 21 *Martii*, 1637. and a Court of Aſſiſtance held 29 of *March*, 1638, they all ratified and confirmed their aſſents formerly given to the ſaid project, not any one gainſaying it.

On the nineteenth of *May*, 1638, they appointed who ſhould ſeal the quadupartite Indenture (which is the Deed of Creation of the Project) the Order is in theſe words.

were the
ants
t that

19 *May* 1638. *Reg. Car.* 14. *William Abel* Alderman, Maſter, maſter *Kynaſton* Warden, maſter *Wilſon*, Maſter *Robert Shaw*, maſter *Bludworth*, maſter

ſter *Bonamy*, maſter *Darling*, maſter *Leechland*, maſter *Conradus*, maſter *Griffith*, maſter *Hulbert*, maſter *Aſhwell*, maſter *Gardiner*.

At this Court the names of ſuch as are appointed to ſeal to the Indenture, between his majeſty, the French and Spaniſh merchants, and the Corporation of the Vintners were here appointed and declared, *viz*.

William Abel Alderman.
Edward Kinaſton.
Ralph More.
Robert Shaw.
Jacob Bonamy.
Ralph King.
George Gopſil.
Henry Barns.
Cordwell Hamond.
George Shaw.
George Hulbert.
Anthony Baily.
John Birch.
Francis Aſhwell.
Michael Gardiner.
Matthew Forſter.
John Gregory.
William Hancock.
William Kimpſter.
Thomas Simcots.
Thomas Dudley.
George Stanley.
John Wilcox.
Mark Hilleſley.
William Bellamy.
Ralph Hutchinſon.
Joſeph Rogers.

All theſe (except the Alderman then maſter, are drawing vintners, wherby it appears by whom, and for whoſe ends this project was ſet on foot, and proſecuted.

25 *May* 1638. The ſeveral perſons here undernamed, brought and paid at vintners Hall the ſeveral ſummes here under mentioned, as Farmers and Adventurers or Sharers, and the per-

perſons and ſummes hereunder ſet down, are entred in the Hall Book, excepting two or three of them, who afterwards brought in their ſaid ſums of a 100 li. a piece to maſter *Travers* the Undertreaſurer, to the ſaid Farmers, and their names and ſummes are entred in his Book.

William Abel Alder.	100 li.	*Robert Lee.*	100 li.
Ralph King.	100	*Ralph More.*	100
Thomas Dudley.	100	*Edward Kinaſton.*	100
George Stanley.	100	*Rowland Wilſon.*	100
Mark Hillcſley.	100	*Michael Gardiner.*	100
Thomas Simcots.	100	*Ralf Hutchinſon.*	100
William Conradus.	100	*Andrew Courtman*	100
William Leechland.	100	*Matthew Terry.*	100
Cap. *Matthew Forſter.*	100	*Robert Shaw.*	100
John Gregory.	100	*Richard Davis.*	100
George Hulbert.	100	*Francis Aſhwell.*	100
Jacob Bonamy.	100	*Henry Crone.*	100
Thomas Darling.	100	Cap. *Henry Sanders*	
Joſeph Rogers.	100	*Thomas Gough.* }	100
William Dickens.	100	*Chriſt. Metcalf* }	
Cordwell Hamond.	100	Cap. *Langham.*	100
Edward Darling.	100	*Henry Lee.*	100
George Griffith.	100	*William Bowyer*	100
Thomas Wilcox.	100	*Roger Kilvert.*	100

Note the ſaid ſunmes were not brought or paid to Alderman *Abel*, but at Vintners Hall, whereby it ſtill ſhews this to be the work of the Company.

After all this, at two ſeverall aſſemblies of the Company in their Hall ir was ordered, that the ſeale of the Compnny ſhould be put to the ſaid Indenture of creation of the project. The

The Orders follow in theſe words.

16 *Junii* 1638. *William Abel*, Alderman Maſter, Maſter *Kinaſton*, Maſter *More*, Maſter *Courtman*, Wardens, Maſter *Wilſon*, Maſter *Bowyer*, Maſter *Davis*, Maſter *Shaw*, Maſter *Hart*, Maſter *Bludworth*, Maſter *Clegate* Maſter *Darling*, Maſter *Hamond*, Maſter *Conradus*, Maſter *Griffith*, Maſter *Baily*, Maſter *Aſhwell*, Maſter *Gardiner*.

Theſe the aſſiſtants this day.

Whereas for the ſetling of the Farme of forty ſhillings to be paid to his majeſty upon every tun of wine to be imported, and ſold in this Kingdome, there are Indentures quadrupartite to be paſſed betweene the Kings moſt excellent majeſty on the firſt part; the Corporation of Vintners on the ſecond, the Company of French merchants on the third, and the Spaniſh merchants on the fourth part, which are to be ſealed on the companies behalfe, with the common ſeale of this company, which is to be performed at the Kings Aturnies chamber. It is ordered that the common ſeale ſhall be taken forth and delivered to our *maſter*, and he to cauſe the ſame to be put to the ſaid Indentures, and to returne the ſame ſeale to be ſafely kept in the treaſury.

Secundo die Auguſt. 1638. *Reg. Car*. 14.

Maſter *John Hart* Maſter, Maſter *Griffith*, Maſter *Alexander Child*, Wardens, Maſter Alderman *Abel*, Maſter *Wilſon*, Maſter *Davis*, Maſter *Robert Shaw*, maſter *Kinaſton*, Maſter *Bludworth*, Maſter *Bo-*

Theſe were the Aſſiſtants preſent beſides the generality.

Bonomy, Maſter *King*, Maſter *Darling*, Maſter *Leechland*, Maſter *Robert Lee*, maſter *Courtman*, Maſter *Conradus*, maſter *George Shaw*, maſter *Gardiner*, M. *Hulbert*, maſter *Birch*, Maſter *Foſter*.

neral
rt.

The generality here aſſembled gave conſent that maſter Alderman *Abel* ſhould have the Companies common Seal delivered unto him, and that he ſhould therewith ſeal the Companies part of the quadrupartite Indenture made with his majeſty and others, and when that is done to return the ſame to be ſafely kept in the Treaſury, together with the Companies part of the ſaid Indenture. And accordingly the Seal was ſent by maſter *Hart*, then maſter of the Company, to Alderman *Abels* houſe, by the hands of their Beadle; and maſter *Griffith*, one of the Contractors then Warden of the Company carried it to maſter Atturnies, and ſealed the Indenture with it, the Alderman being then out of town.

What can be more plain, then that this was the work of the whole Company.

The Companies part of the Indenture muſt be kept with their common Seal in their Treaſury, for ſo was it appointed by this laſt Order of the General Court.

The Project was contrived by the generality at a general Court, as by the Order of the 22 of *November*. It was confirmed by the generality with unanimous conſent, not one contradicting it at a general Court 7 *Feb.* 1637. and then the generality nominated and appointed ten of their Company to contract with his majeſty on behalf of the whole Company. And

And their common Seale was ordered to be put to the Indenture of creation of the project at a generall court, when Alderman *Abel* was not Maſter. And beſides out of Towne.

So all the material and principal paſſages of the creation of this Project were acted in their Hall at general Courts, and by the generality.

And it cannot be denied, but that a greater number of drawing Uintners appeared at thoſe general Courts, then hath been known at any Court of former times.

And as it appears by the Orders of thoſe general Courts, that Alderman *Abel* was ingaged in the buſineſſe by the generality (as he was maſter of their Company) ſo it appears alſo by the ſame Orders, that neither he, nor any others were ſingle actors of any thing in the creation or contrivement of the Project, but that it was the very Project of the generality of Retailing vintners, for the profit of themſelves only

For upon reading the Petition of *James Maſon* and *Robert Quarterman* and others, preferred againſt Alderman *Abel* and the reſt of the Farmers, upon the 20th day of *November* at their Hall. The then Maſter and Wardens of the Company of the vintners, with the reſt of the Court of Aſſiſtance, made a Declaration, and entred it in their Hall Book, wherein are conteined theſe very words. The 20th Novemb.

And maſter Alderman *Abel* and divers other the Contractors never ſith-hence dealt in groſſe, nor benefited themſelves by the advance upon the

retail of Wines: ſo as he hath in all this been but a perſon even entreated into the buſineſſe for the Company, and no whit for himſelf, nor hath otherwiſe, or in other manner, or for other cauſe acted any thing at all in or concerning this buſines.

For the Medium.

It was firſt occaſioned by the drawing Vintners, for in the firſt Article or their project, they demanded that all Merchants, may be enjoyned to ſell their wines to none but the retayling Vintners.

The Merchants oppoſed it, and ſhewed that in caſe they ſhould be tied up from ſelling their wines to any but vintners, it would be their undoing, and the overthrow of their trades, unleſſe the Vintners would oblige themſelves to take off their wines at the prizes ſet by the Lords, for otherwiſe the Vintners would beat down the Merchants prices, and leave their wines on their hands.

Whereupon after ſeverall debates, touching that particular betweene the Merchants and Uintners, it was at a generall Court held at Uintners Hall the 21, of *March*, 1637. agreed and conſented to by the generality of Retailers: That they would yearely take from the Merchants at the ſet prices, ſuch a quantity of wine as was by them yearely imported according to a Medium, to be taken of their laſt ſeven yeares importation.

And at another generall Court, the 29 off the ſame *March*, they againe conſented to take off the Merchants wines, as by the order following appeares.

29 *Martii* 1638.

William Abel Alderman[t], Maſter, maſter *Kinaſton*, maſter *More*, maſter *Courtman*, Wardens, maſter *Wilſon*, maſter *Hutchinſon*, maſter *Bowyer*, maſter *Davies*, maſter *Robert Shaw*, maſter *Bludworth*, Maſter *King*, Maſter *Clegate*, maſter *Darling*, Maſter *Hamond*, Maſter *Conradus*, maſter *Griffith*, Maſter *George Shaw*, maſter *Hulbert*, Maſter *Field*, Maſter *Baily*, Maſter *Aſhwell*. These we Aſſiſtant ſides the rality.

This day upon a general ſummons of all retailers of wines given by the Officers of the Hall for their apperance here, a very ample number of them came, to whom the *Maſter* againe declared what had paſſed betwixt himſelf and ſome other committees of this Company, and the *French* and *Spaniſh* Merchants touching the *Medium* of wines by them required to be taken off, and the *Maſter* againe propounded to the ſaid retailers whether they were willing for accomodation of thoſe *Engliſh* Merchants to take their wines being good and merchantable, as in former times, in ſuch a moderate way as is lately propounded, and hereafter to be agreed upon, not exceeding the *Medium*; No warres, act of State, contagion, great ſickneſſe, or mortality hindering the vent of Wines. To which they declared and ſignified their conſents, as alſo that the farm of 40 ſhillings a Tun, ſhall be accepted at the rent of 30000 li. *per annum*, and the granting of Licenſes for Taverns at 7000 li. *per annum*. A genera Court.

And the next Court day being the 19 of *May* 1638. the Company appointed a certaine number of retailing Vintners to ſeale the quadrupartite indenture on behalfe of the whole company which, indenture was ſeverall times openly read and ratified in their Hall at generall meetings, and in that Indenture the vintners covenant expreſly to take off from the Merchants 4000 tunne *Spaniſh*, and 5000 tunne *French* wines; (being the *Medium* agreed on by the merchants and vintners) and in conſideration thereof the merchants covenanted and obliged themſelves to ſell to no coopers, nor countrey vintners.

Thus was the *Medium* begot by the *London* vintners and for their benefit, who by this meanes monopolized the retailing of wines both in city and countrey, and were the ſole Authors of the *Medium*; and afterwards to make ſure work, they got an order from the Council-board that thoſe merchants that ſhould breake their contract by ſelling wines to coopers or countrey vintners ſhould not have their wines taken off.

The vintners having thus tied up the merchants from ſelling to any but them, would not take off their wines, as by contract they were bound, but furniſhed themſelves from Strangers, and left thoſe native merchants wines on their hands to their great loſſe and almoſt undoing.

Thereupon, thoſe merchants were driven to petition the Lords of the council, and to ſet forth the unfaithfull and fraudulent dealing of the vintners, and upon ſeveral hearings of what could be

be ſaid on both ſides, their Lordſhips ordered the vintners to take off from thoſe merchants who had beene ſo much wronged a ſmall quantity, farre ſhort of that which the vintners by their owne contract were bound to take, and were wines which a ſelect committee of vintners (*Michael Gardiner* being one) had choſen and marked out for good and merchantable wines.

True it is, in regard of the great quantity of wines imported that yeare, the vintners might have bought thoſe wines ſomewhat cheaper, but they retailed them all at the higheſt prices, and loſt not, but gained by them, and in caſe any one peece of thoſe wines failed on their hands, it was through the Uintners owne wilfulneſſe, in that they would not husband them, rack them from their lees, and take them from the Merchants in due time as by their contract they were bound and ought to have done.

In the great and numerous company of Vintners, there are about 40. whereof ſome would not pay the Merchant for their *Medium* wines, others would not pay the 40. ſhillings a tunne to the King, and ſome of the refuſers to pay for their *Medium* wines were upon complaint of the Merchants, owners of thoſe wines committed to the Fleet by the Lords; and others that would not pay the 40. ſhillings a tunne, after long forbearance, were ſued.

Theſe

These forty being indebted to his Majesty in great summes for the forty shillings a tun, petitioned the Honourable House of Commons against Alderman *Abel*, *Ralph More*, *George Griffith*, *Rowland Wilson*, and the rest of the *Farmers*, and by their Petition they set forth, that they were compelled to take *medium* Wines to their loss, and inforced to pay forty s. upon a tun all Wines, both which are untrue, for they had voluntarily obliged themselves by their said contract to perform both, upon more then valuable considerations as is before declared, and upon those and the like false pretence, that they opposed the project, they would exempt themselves from making restitution to the Common-wealth of the great summes which they have gained by the project.

To these its answered, that they amongst the rest were present at the contriving of, and gave their consents to the project at vintners Hall, and againe, though they refused to pay the 40 s. *per* Tun to his Majesty yet they have the conscience to take the 1*d.* and 2*d.* a quart, and enjoyed all other benefits and advantages by the project, and yet more, some of them had the faces to take the 3*d.* a quart, which was half a Tun above the set prices on *Malligoes* and *Sheries*, as was proved before the Committees of Parliament.

Thus you may see how these men had the consciences to take on all wines 4 l. on some 8 l. on others 12 l. a tunne above the set prices (although in the set prices there's included a competent gain to them) and to exact all other the advantages by the

the contract, but they will not pay the King 40. ſhillings a tunne, nor take off the Merchants wines as other vintners did, and as they by their contract were bound to doe.

Theſe will enjoy all profits, but will endure no loſſe.

Are not theſe men more inexcuſable to blame, then the reſt of the vintners, that taking the 1 penny and 2 pence a quart paid the 40 ſhillings to the King, and performed their contract with the merchants. For the end of theſe mens complaint in Parliament, was to free themſelves from payment of the 40 ſhillings a Tun to the King, on thoſe Wines for which they had taken from the Subject 4 l. 8 l. and 12 l. a Tun, above the ſet prices.

But the truth is, that the Vintners having received a double benefit by this their Project, to wit, pardon for their fore-paſt delinquencies, and increaſe of price on all their Wines, would have eſcaped the juſtice of the high Court of Parliament, and have prevented both puniſhment and reſtitution by caſting their Project from off themſelves and others, and by conceaſing and denying their moſt unconſcionable benefit, but their own Orders which they ſo long denied, and would ſtill deny, have been ſeveral times proved at the ſeveral Committees, and out of thoſe their own Orders (againſt which no modeſt man would contend.) They have upon ten ſeveral hearings before the ſaid Committees been four times voted by the Committees to be the Contrivers of the Project and Delinquents.

For the Licenſes.

The 22 day of Novemb. 1637 A general Court.

At a general Court, *viz.* on the foreſaid 22 day of *November* 1637, when the ſeveral immunities & benefits comprehended in eleven heads or Articles were put in writing at Vintners hall by their Clark, one of the ſaid Articles *(viz.)* the 6th, was, that the granting of Wine Licenſes in and about *London* be reſtrained, and that the free Vintners may draw Wines in the four principal Roads, and in all Cities and Market Towns. But the ſaid Licenſes being before that granted by the late King *Charles*, to the Lord *Goring*, and he in actual poſſeſſion thereof.

The 7th. of Februar. 1637. A general Court.

The ſaid generality as in the aforeſaid Order of the 29th. of *March* 1638. did conſent and agree, That the granting of Licenſes ſhould be farmed at 7000 l. *per annum*, and whereas by the aforeſaid Order of the ſeventh of *February* 1637, the generality nominated ten Contractors to contract with his Majeſty for the duty of 40 s. *per* tun, at 30000 l. *per annum*, who ſhould take to them ſo many as ſhould make up thirty, who ſhould go 1000 li. a man Adventure at this general Court *(viz.)* on the ſaid 29th. of *March* 1638. They order, that the ſaid Contractors ſhall take to them ſo many as ſhould under-write 1000 l. a man, as ſhall make up with the ſaid Contractors 37 ſhares, and accordingly the ſaid Contractors did take to them ſo many as did make up their ſhares, who did under-write their names at Vintners Hall, to go a

The 29th. of March, 1638. A general Court.

1000

1000 l. adventure in the ſaid farms, and brought into ſtock a 100 l. a man, which was paid into the hands of maſter *Traveis* Under-treaſurer to the Farmers.

Thus the retailing vintners aſſumes the whole benefit of all the aforementioned benefits and immunities to themſelves, excepting the farming of the 40 s. *per* tun, and Wine Licenſes, which by the preceding Orders, moſt plainly appears. They turned over to the ſaid Contractors and Coadventurers, who accordingly did contract with the ſaid late King *Charles*, and the ſaid Lord *Goring* for the ſaid farms, and did rent to themſelves an houſe for a meeting place, and did take to themſelves a Treaſurer an Aſſiſtant and Under-treaſurer, Clarks and Accountants, and Waiters, and ſeveral other Officers, and did allot and pay to them by their Under-treaſurer their ſeveral yeerly ſtipends, and did fit and make Orders which were firſt drawn up by Maſter *Griffith*, one of the ſaid Farmers, and afterwards engroſſe in a fair Book by Maſter *Winton* their Clark, and did receive the benefit and profits ariſing by the ſaid Farms, which ſaid Contractors and Coadventurers did take to them ſeveral Sub-adventurers. The names of all which are hereunto annexed with their particular adventures in the ſaid Farms, as they are ſet down under the hand of Maſter *George Griffith*, one of the ſaid Farmers & Aſſiſtant to the Treaſurer, which ſaid Contractors, Coadventurers, and Subadventurers did agree amongſt themſelves, about *November* a thouſand ſix hundred thirty nine, to pur-

chaſe of the ſaid Lord *Goring*, his whole intereſt in the ſaid Wine Licenſes, and that each of them ſhould have and beare his ſhare of loſſe or gain in the ſaid purchaſe, according to his ſaid Adventure. And what moneys ſoever ſhould be taken up at Intereſt, or brought in by any upon that occaſion ſhould be born and paid by the ſaid Contractors, Co-adventurers and Sub-adventurers, according to their ſeveral adventures, as will appear by ſeveral Orders of the Farmers, and a note of Subſcription hereto annexed under thirty of their hands. Which ſaid ſumme of 18000 *li.* was paid to the ſaid Lord *Goring* in manner following, That is to ſay, 9000 *li.* thereof out of the joynt ſtock of the ſaid Contractors, Co-adventurers and Sub-adventurers, and 9000 *li.* more by the order and deſire, and upon the undertaking of the whole number, by moneys taken up at Intereſt by *William Abell* and *Robert Shaw*, together with two or three others, and upon payment of the ſaid 18000 *li.* to the ſaid Lord *Goring*, the ſaid Lord *Goring* did aſſigne his ſaid intereſt to the ſaid *William Abell* and *Robert Shaw*, and 10 others in truſt for the reſt, &c.

Who by vertue of the ſaid Aſſignement, did receive the profits thereof, untill *Francis Dickens* their Clerke under pretence of a former Deed to his father *William Dickens* in the year 1643 went to *Oxford*, and carried all the Books of Accounts away with him.

Whereupon the then Committee for the publike revenue, ſequeſtred the Agencie of the ſaid Wine Licenſes with the profits thereof, and put in Agents of their own nomination. And

And the ſaid Contractors, &c. refuſing to pay their juſt ſhares, and the ſaid Agents (ſince the ſaid ſequeſtration) receiving the Rents and profits ariſing by the ſaid Licenſes.

The ſaid *William Abel* and *Robert Shaw* after many tedious and vexatious Suits, and after ſeveral times petitioning and appearing before the ſaid Committee for the revenue for releaſe of the ſaid Sequeſtration, and all without the leaſt redreſſe.

The ſaid *William Abel* and *Robert Shaw* have lately preſented their humble Petition to the Honourable Committee of Parliament for Priſons and Priſoners againſt the ſaid Contractors, &c. and others in that Petition named, which Petition their Honours have bin pleaſed to recommend by their Letter to the honourable Committee of Judges ſitting at Salters Hall, and thereupon the ſaid *Abel* and *Shaw* have applyed themſelves by their Petition for relief to their Honours, both which Petitions are here annexed, together with a Petition lately preſented to the Parliament by ſome of the ſaid Contractors, &c. under the names of the Maſter and Wardens, and Company of vintners of the City of *London*, in which Petition they acknowledg the payment of the ſaid 18000 *l.* for the ſaid purchaſe of the wine Licences, which they ſay in their Petition, they were forced to take up at intereſt, and for a great part thereof ſome of their members have been impriſoned theſe 9 yeers paſt, there are like without redreſs in the premiſes ſtill to continue to their utter ruine; which ſaid petition upon the Parliament, referring the examination of

the Agency for Wine Licenſes to the Committee for inſpection into treaſuries by their Order of the firſt of *Auguſt* 1653, The ſaid Maſter and Wardens, &c. Contractors and Co-adventurers together have ſeverall times appeared before the ſaid Committee, and now lately (*viz*)on Tueſday the ſixth of December 1653,with Council owning the contents of their Petition and craving releife thereupon, as will appear by two ſeveral Orders of the ſaid Committee, hereto annexed.

In which petition they acknowledge the Purchaſe, the conſideration of the Purchaſe (*viz*) 18000*l*. The taking up of the monies at intereſt, and the impriſonment of their members for the ſame and that even to their utter ruine and there never being any other member either of the Company of vintners(as of the Company)or of the contractors Co-adventurers and Subadventurers(as of them likewiſe) that is or ever was in priſon for any of the ſaid 18000 *l*. other then the ſaid Maſter *Abel* and Maſter *Shaw* and one maſter *Moore* lately impriſoned alſo for the ſaid moneyes.

The ſaid *Abel* and *Shaw* do humbly conceive, that upon comparing the Companies ſaid Petition preſented to the Committee for inſpection, &c. and the ſaid Committees two Orders, together with three ſeveral Orders of the Farmers here following, and their note likewiſe of ſubſcription under their hands, hereto annexed. That theſe men will moſt juſtly be liable to pay the debts, either as the Company, or as Contractors, &c.

The Vintners Petition, the Committees Orders, and the Orders of the Farmers here followeth.

To the Supream Authority, the Parliament of the Common-wealth of England.

The humble Petition of the Master, Wardens, and Company of Vintners of the City of London.

Shewing,

THat the granting of Wine Licenses in *England* and *Wales*, were exeepted out of the Statutes against Monopolies, in the 21th yeer of the late King *James*.

That the late King *Charles*. the 20th. day of *December*, in the seventh yeer of hise Rign, by his Indenture under the Great Seal of *England*, did constitute *George* Lord *Goring*, and others in trust for him Agent or Agents for the Wine Licenses in *England*, *Wales*, and *Berwick*, *Devon* and *Cornwall*, and *Exeter* excepted for 21 yeers, from the 20th. of *December* 1630.

That

That in the yeer 1638, the ſaid late King, for valuable conſideration granted to Sir *Sackvile Crow* Baronet 1600 li, *per annum*, to be iſſuing out of the Rents and ſummes of money to grow payable to him his heirs and ſucceſſours, for or in reſpect of granting Licenſes for ſelling of Wines, amounting then unto 2166 l. 13 s. 4 d. *per annum*; out of which 1600 l. *per annum*, your Petitioners purchaſed 400 l. *per annum*, which coſt them 2400 l. and then there remained to the Crown no more then 566 l. 13 s. 4 d. *per annum*.

That your Petitioners being beforehand adviſed by learned Council of the legality of the ſaid Lord *Gorings* and his Truſtees intereſt did in the yeere 1639 by ſpecial command of the late King *Charles*, in conſideration of 18000 l. paid to the Lord *Goring*, and of the ſaid 2166 l. 13 s. 4 d. reſerved to the Crown purchaſe the ſaid Agency from him and his ſaid Truſtees.

That one *William Dickens* ſome times Servant to the Lord *Goring*, did mannage the ſaid Agency for the Lord *Goring*, and afterwards for your Petitioners and the ſaid Copartners (ſo long as he liv'd) & after him *Franciss Dickens*, Gent, his ſonne did the like for your Petitioner, and reſpectively Accounted before Auditor *Spackman* in their Names and to their uſes.

That your Petitioner enjoyed the ſaid Agency, and four hundred Pounds *per annum* untill they were interupted by *Francis Dickens* under pretence of a fraudelent Deed who went to *Oxford* in the year 1643: By reaſon whereof the then Committee of the Publick revenues ſequeſtred the ſaid agency,

and

and all rents and Profits, &c and put in other Agents of their owne nomination, who keepe their Office in *Fleet*ſtreet, and have enjoyed the profits thereof ever ſince. And under pretence of *Francis Dickins* Delinquency. Your Petitiones have ever ſince been kept out of the ſaid Agency. Notwithſtanding they have uſed all the means they could to be reſtored thereunto.

That when the preſent Agents entred upon the ſaid Agency, there was due to your Petitioners for Arrears and Fines 14000 l. or thereabouts, and in annual Rents for Licenſes about 3000 l. *per annum*, beſides the profit and benefit of making and renewing of Licenſes. And all arrears and profits, except 566 l. 13 s. 4 d. *per annum* due to the late King, all which was of right to have come into your Petitioners hands, they having really diſburſed for the ſame 20400 l. which your Petitioners were forced to take up at intereſt. And for a great part thereof, ſome of their members have been impriſoned theſe nine yeers paſt, and there are like without redreſſe in the premiſes, ſtill to continue to their utter ruine.

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray your Honours will be pleaſed to commiſerate their diſtreſſed eſtate, and ſpeedily to take ſtrict examination how, and in what manner the preſent Agents have demeaned and do demean themſelves in the ſaid Agency, and when, and to whom, and how much money they have anſwered to the Common-wealth, and in

what

what condition the Agency now ſtands, whereby your Petitioners doubt not but the Intereſt of the Common-wealth will be much advanced, and your Petitioners alſo receive ſome competent ſatisfaction for the great ſummes of money ſo as afore by them disburſed; The rather for that, beſides the ſummes before mentioned, They have lent to the uſe of the Common-wealth at leaſt 12000 *l. for which they pay Intereſt to this day:*

And your Petitioners ſhall ever pray, &c.

George Griffith, Maſter.
Henry Croone, *Edw. Fauconer*, *Richard Maijor* } Wardens
Joſeph Rogers.
Thomas Benſon.

At the Committee of Parliament for Inſpecting the Treaſuries, and regulating Officers and Salleries.

Nove. 2 *Dickins* his Siſt

WHereas, upon reading of the Petition of *William Dickins*, *Anne*, *Elizabeth*, *Tomazin*, and *Mary*, his ſiſters, being the younger Children of Mr. *William Dickins*, their late Father deceaſed, wherein they alledge that the ſaid *William Dickins* having an Intereſt in the profits of a Patent made from the late King unto the Lord *Goring* and others for compounding for, and granting Licenſes to ſell wine by retail throughout *England* and *Wales* (*Devon* and *Cornwall* excepted) did by his laſt Will, whereby he made *Francis* his Son, his Exceeutor, bequeath unto the Petitioners ſeverall ſummes of money, amounting in all to three thouſand nine hundred pounds to be raiſed out of the yearly Revenue of the ſaid Patent, out of which the Petitioners aſſert, they have not yet received any thing towards their ſaid portions for that the profits of the ſaid office were in *May*, one thouſand ſix hundred forty four, ſequeſtred for the Delinquency of *Francis Dickins*, Executor of the

ſaid *William*, though he was onely Intereſſed in the ſaid Revenue, as an Executor and Teſtementary Truſtee, for which Cauſes they prayed ſatisfaction of their Portions out of the arrears of the ſaid profits of the ſaid Patent. This Committee upon the whole matter, finding themſelves uncapable to determine any thing; as to the relief of the Petitioners, untill the preſent Commiſſioners and Agents for Wine Licenſes, and alſo the Maſter and Company of Vintners *London*, who claim ſeverall Intereſts in and to the office of Agency and granting of Wine Licenſes be heard, do therefore Order that the preſent Commiſſioners and Agents for Wine Licenſes, as alſo the Maſter and Warden of the Company of Vintners; and likewiſe Maſter *Cozens*, late Clerke to the Committee for the Revenue, together with the Petitioners, do attend this Committee in the Inner Court of Wards, on *Tueſday*, the twenty ninth day of this inſtant *November*, by two of the clock in the afternoon, to offer and manifeſt what they can unto this Committe, relating to each mans reſpective Intereſts, and thereupon this Committee will declare their

and make ſuch Order therein as ſhall be

At the Committee of Parliament for Inſpecting the Treaſuries, and regulating Officers and Salaries.

Decemb
Dickins
Vintner
don.

WHereas vpon reading of the Petition of *William Dickens*, *Anne*, *Elizabeth*, *Thomazin*, and *Mary Dickens*, his ſiſters. It was ordered the two and twentieth day of *November* laſt, that the matter of the ſaid Petition ſhould be taken into conſideration the twenty ninth day of the ſame moneth, and that the Maſter and Company of Vintners *London*, who make claim to the ſame thing, as the Petitioners do together with the preſent Commiſſioners and Agents for Wine Licenſes ſhould then attend this Committee, to ſay what they could in reference to their Intereſt: And accordingly the ſaid parties then appearing, but not being fully prepared to make out their ſeverall Intereſts. Thereupon, by conſent of all parties the Cauſe was put over to be heard this preſent day, and now the parties appearing, and the Petition of the ſaid *Dickins* being again read, wherein the Petitioners prayed reliefe and ſatisfaction of the ſumme of 3500 *li.* in Legacies given to them by the Will of Mr. *William Dickins* their late Father deceaſed, and appointed to be paid out of the profits and arrears incurred upon the Patent for granting of Wine Licenſes granted by the late King to the Lord *Goring*, the ſaid *William Dickins* and others: and in lieu of a great ſumme paid and

engaged for the Lord *Goring*, he the ſaid *William Dickins* was to have one thonſand eight hundred thirty three pounds ſix ſhillings eight pence *per annum* out of the profits of the ſaid Farme in caſe it ſhould yield ſo much above the Kings Rent, of which Will *Francis Dickens* eldeſt ſon of the ſaid *William* being Executour, he the ſaid *Francis* though but a Truſtee for the Petitioners, in reference to ſo much of the benefit of the ſaid patent, as amounted to ſatisfie the ſaid legacies, yet was the ſaid patent and the profits thereof ſequeſtred by the Commiſſioners for compounding at Haberdaſhers Hall for the Delinquency of the ſaid *Francis*, inſomuch that the Petitioners have been kept from their legacies, upon which their ſubſiſtance depends as in their portion is alledged upon conſideration whereof and heareing of the Maſter and Company of Vintners London, who alſo claim an intereſt in the profits of the ſaid patent for Wine Licenſes by grant from the Lord *Goring* and others, wherein the ſaid *William Dickens* joyned, for which the ſaid Maſter and Company of Vintners paid eighteen thouſand pounds in money, and 1800 pounds *per annum*, during the time that they held the ſame: and ſo they affirm that the arrears of Rent and Fines, are of right belonging to them while the terme of yeeres in the ſaid patent remained, which determined in the yeere one thouſix hundred fifty one, this Committee upon the whole matter are of opinion that the ſeveral intreſts of the perſons aforeſaid are not compriſed within their power to determine, and doe order that

for

Maſter *Mayer* be deſired (as one of the Committee for Compounding at Haberdaſhers Hall) to report to the Parliament with what convenient ſpeed hee can the true ſtate of the cauſe relating to the intereſt of the petitioners, as it ſtands cleered before the ſaid Commiſſioners.

18° *Junii*, 1639.

Preſent,

Mr. *Alderman Abel*	Mr. *Rowland Wilſon*
Mr. *Kinaſton*	Mr. *Griffith.*
Mr. *Robert Shawe*	Mr. *Leechland*
Mr. *Darling*	Mr. *Courtman*
Mr. *Wilcockes*	Mr. *Simcockes*
Capt. *Forſter*	Mr. *William Dickins.*

Moved, that thoſe that ſhall be bound for the 7000 *l. per annum* for the Licenſes for retailing of Wines to the Lord *Goring* be nominated. Maſter *Wilſon* and others moved, That Mr. Treaſurer and the Deputy ſhould treat with the Lord *Goring* about the buying in of 3000 *l per annum*, due to him for thirteen years out of the ſaid Licenſes, and if they could prevail to have it at five and an half years purchaſe, or under, then that the Adventurers in the 30000 *l.* Farme ſhould buy it in, and then whom were bound ſhould run the leſſe danger, and however thoſe bound ſhould be ſaved harmleſſe by Covenant from the other Adventurers *pro Rato* to their particular Adventures.

21th. of *June*, 1639.

Preſent,

Alderman *Abel*	Mr. *Griffith*
Mr. *Darling*	Mr. *Davis*
Mr. *Courtman*	Mr. *Bonnamy*
Mr. *Dickins*	Mr. *Robert Lee*
Mr. *Conradus*	Mr. *Hilſely*
Mr. *Dudley*	Mr. *Cox*.

The laſt Court read and confirmed, and Mr. Treaſurer and Deputy now moved to have a further conſent to treat with the Lord *Goring*, and that they hoped to prevail to obtain his 3000 *l. per annum* at ſix years purchaſe, which comes to 18000 *l.* out of which to abate 1768 *l.* which is found to be received leſſe then 7000 *l.* the laſt year, which the Adventurers are to make good, ſo that there is really to be diſburſed onely 16232 l. which is to the adventurers under five and an half years purchaſe, and to obtain his Lordſhips ſecurity to pay the 3000 *l. per annum* during the whole time, if it ſhould happen that the Licenſes ſhould be reſumed by his Majeſty, or by any act of Parliament, or act of State, which, if could be obtained, the Committee preſent conſented unto, and wiſhed the bargain perfected; and thoſe that happen for it any way to be engaged, the totall adventurers to ſave them harmleſſe; and it was conſented unto, that if the Lord *Goring* deſired the 400 *l. per annum*, which the adventurers bought formerly of Sir *Drue Deane's* Executors for 2400 *l.* he ſhould have it, deducting the ſaid 2400 *l.* out of the 18000 *l.* for the ſix years purchaſe, as aforeſaid.

The third of *November* 1640, preſent,

Maſter Alderman *Abel*,
Maſter *Leechland*,
Maſter *Hammond*,
Maptain *Foſter*,
Maſter *Griffith*,
Maſter *Courtman*,
Maſter *Bowyer*.

At this Court it was ordred, that maſter Alderman, maſter *Leechland*, maſter *Edward Darling*, and maſter *Griffith* ſhould conferre with the Lord *Goring*, to cauſe maſter *Dickens* to ſeal the Deed for the Licenſes, with expedition, that it be no further delayed, which being effected, that it be made over for the ſecurity of maſter Alderman and others that are engaged at intereſt, and maſter Alderman, and ſuch others ſo entruſted to re-aſſigne the ſame, when they ſhall be freed of ſuch their engagements.

BY which foreſaid Petition & orders, & the note of ſubſcription here following, nothing more plain, Then that the Wine Licences were by the ſaid Contractors, &c. ordered to be purchaſed, and moneys likewiſe to be taken up for the ſaid purchaſe, and the parties that ſhall become engaged for the ſaid purchaſe to be re-imburſt: But that the ſaid *Abell* and *Shaw* were and are the parties ſo engaged, and that by their laſt mentioned Order of the third of November 1640, the Deed of the Wine Licedſes be aſſigned over to them, for or towards ſatisfaction of the ſaid monies or debts, ſo by them entered into, which they never did,

nor

not ever after (the ſaid Order making) went about to perform, but that the ſaid parties *Abell* and *Shaw* are the very parties impriſoned for the ſaid debts, there being never any other impriſoned for the ſame, except lately the aforeſaid *Moore*.

But it doth further appear by the ſaid Petition, and Orders, that the ſaid Contractors, &c. under the names of the Maſter and Wardens, &c. inſtead of giving the leaſt ſatisfaction to the ſaid *Abell* and *Shaw*, they (by their ſaid Petition, and the ſaid Orders) ſet forth their claim and Title in and to the ſaid Wine Licenſes, and endeavour to get them and the profits thereof to themſelves and their own uſes, leaving the ſaid *Abel* and *Shaw* like moſt unconſcionable men (as in their Petition) to continue in priſon without redreſſe.

The two petitions of the ſaid *Abel* and *Shaw*, together with the note of Subſcription, under the hands of the ſaid Copartners, and the names of all the Contractors, &c. as they are ſet down under the hand of Maſter *George Griffith* now Maſter of the Company, and one of the ſaid Contractors, here (followeth.) One of which petitions is directed to the Honourable Committee of Parliament for priſons and priſoners, and recommended by their Letter to the Honourable Committee of Judges ſitting at Salters Hall. The other to the ſaid Judges themſelves, and both for relief againſt the ſaid Copartners.

To the Honorable Judges appointed by Pliament for relief of Creditors & Prisoners

Thereof The humble Peticon of Wm Abell & Robt Shaw now Prisoners in ye Upper Bench

Whereas yo. pet.rs have heretofore presented their humble peticon to ye Honorable Committee of Pliament for Prisons & Prisoners Which peticon their Honors have been pleased to recommend by their Letter to yo. Honors

Yo. pet.rs humbly pray for that they have a long time undergone the great charge & disgrace of Imprisonment That yo. honors wilbe pleased to take ye said peticon into Consideracon & grant a speedy hearing & relief therein according to Justice & equity

And yo. pet.rs shall pray

A Copy

To our honoured Friends the Judges appointed by Pliam.t for relief of Creditors & Prisoners, sitting at Salters Hall.

Gentlemen

This petition of Mr Abell & Mr Shaw (wh[illegible] been sometime since) presented unto us, & wee being then about preparing that Act is since come forth authorizing Judges in their Seuall Counties to relieve both Credit[illegible] Prisoners, And wee being very sensible of [illegible] many & long sufferings of the Petitioners occasioned by certaine Coptners & others in the petition named, And that Act giving you [illegible] power to relieve those that are in prison [illegible] the debts of others, Wee recommend their petition with the Justice of their Cau[illegible] unto you, Not doubting but you will gi[illegible] them (as to the Coptners) speedy relief, W[illegible] they may be at length freed from the[illegible] long & Chargeable Imprisonment & be m[illegible] able to satisfy those debts to their Credi[illegible] which to y.e use of the Coptners in ge[illegible] were entred into. This Gentlemen [illegible] y.e ioynt request of

Yo.r affectionate Frie[illegible]

Wm Cullen. Laur. Mar[illegible]

Tho: Eyre Sam. Hyla[illegible]

Jo: Pratt Vincent God[illegible]

At y.e Committee of Pliam.t for prisons & prisoners

Nov. 8.

1653.

TO THE HONOURABLE the Committee of *PARLIAMENT* FOR Prisons and Prisoners.

The humble Petition of William Abel, *and* Robert Shawe, *now Prisoners in the Upper Bench.*

Sheweth,

THat the granting of Wine Licenses in *England* and *Wales* were excepted out of the Statutes of Monopolies, in the 21 year of the late King *James.*

That the late King *Charles* the 20th. day of *December*, in the seventh yeer of his Reigne, by Indenture under the great Seal of *England*, did constitute *George* Lord *Goring*, and others in trust for him Agent or Agents for the Wine Licenses in *England*, *Wales* and *Barwick*, *Devon*, *Cornwall*, and *Exeter* excepted, for 21 yeers, from the 20th. of *December* 1630.

That in the yeer 1638, the said late King for valuable considerations, granted to Sir *Sackvil Crowe* Baronet 1600 *li. per annum*, to be issuing out of the Rents, and Sums of money payable

ble to the late King his Heirs, and Succeſſors, for or in reſpect of granting Licenſes for ſelling of Wines amounting then unto 2166 *li.* 13 *ſhil.* 4 *d. per annum.* So as there remained to the Crown only 566 *li.* 13 *ſhil.* 4 *d. per annum*, out of which 600 *li. per annum*, your Petitioner *William Abel* with three others purchaſed 400 *li. per annum*, which coſt 2400 *li.*

That alſo certain Copartners, being before-hand adviſed by learned Counſel of the legality of the ſaid Lord *Gorings* and his Truſtees Intereſt, divers of them to the number of thirty, did authorize & give order under their hands to your Petitioners and others to buy the ſaid Intereſt, and did likewiſe under their hands engage to ſave your Petitioners and the reſt harmleſs for what moneys they ſhould take up at intereſt towards the ſaid purchaſe (as by a Copy of the ſaid Subſcription hereto annexed will appear.)

That in purſuance of the ſaid Copartners order, your Petitioners and others did in the yeer 1639, for and in conſideration of 18000 *li.* paid to the ſaid Lord *Goring*, and of the ſaid 2166 *li.* 13 *ſhil.* 4 *d.* reſerved to the Crown, purchaſe the ſaid Lord *Gorings* Intereſt and Agency from him and his ſaid Truſtees.

That the ſaid Lord *Goring* did enter into a Statute of 24000 *li.* to your Petitioners, and ten others of the Copartners nominated by the reſt, and did likewiſe himſelf, and one *Philip Warwick* his truſtee Covenant to and with your Petitioners, and the ſaid ten others likewiſe nominated by the reſt, that they ſhould peaceably and quietly enjoy the ſaid Agencie from themſelves or from any other perſon or perſons claiming in, from, by or under them, or either of them, &c.

That one *William Dickins*, ſometimes ſervant to the Lord *Goring*, did manage the ſaid Agencie for the Lord *Goring*, and afterwards for the ſaid Copartners ſo long as he lived. And after him *Francis Dickins* Gentleman his ſon, did the like for the ſaid Copartners, and reſpectively accompted before Auditour *Spachman* in their names, and to their uſes.

That the ſaid Copartners enjoyed the ſaid Agency, and

400 *li. per annum*, until they were interrupted by *Francis Dickins*, under pretence of a former Deed from the ſaid Lord *Goring* to the ſaid *William Dickins*. Which *Francis* went to *Oxford* in the yeere 1643. By reaſon whereof the then Committee of the publique Revenue ſequeſtred the ſaid Agency, and all rents and profits, &c. and put in other Agents of their own nomination, who keep their Office in *Fleetſtreet*, and have enjoyed the profits thereof ever ſince. And under pretence of *Francis Dickins*'s Delinquency.

And your Petitioners thereupon have ſeveral times petitioned and appeared before that Honourable Committee for a releaſe of the ſaid Sequeſtration, but could never obtein a final hearing thereupon.

That when the preſent Agents entred upon the ſaid Agency there was due to the ſaid Copartners for Arreares and Fines 14000 *li.* or thereabouts, and in annuall Rents for Licenſes about 3000 *li. per annum*, beſides the profits and benefit of making and renewing Licenſes, and all Arreares and Profits, except 566 *li* 13 *ſhil.* 4 *d. per annum*, due to the late King, all which was of right to have come to the hands of the ſaid Copartners, they having really diſburſed for the ſame, by the hands of your Petitioners 20400 *li.* a very great part whereof was taken up at intereſt (as by a particular of the bonds hereto annexed will appear) by your Petitioners, and ſome others, by the order and appointment of the ſaid Copartners (as aforeſaid.) And your Petitioners have a long time undergone the hard bonds, great charge and diſgrace of impriſonment for the ſame, and are ſtill like to continue there (without redreſs) to their utter ruine.

Now for as much as your Petitioners have had many tedious and vexatious ſuits, yet undetermined, with the ſaid Copartners and others involved in this buſineſs, whereby vaſt ſummes have been fruitleſly expended in ſuits at Law and equity, and your Petitioners eſtates waſted, and they become altogether unable to ſupport ſuch exorbitant charges, with ſo many and ſo powerful adverſaries.

Your Petitioners therefore (for their more ſpeedy relief herein) humbly pray that your Honours will be pleaſed to commiſerate their diſtreſſed eſtate, and to call before your Honours the ſaid Copartners, the ſaid now preſent Agents, the ſaid Lord *Goring* and his Truſtees, and the ſaid *Francis Dickins*, and to command to be brought before all Deeds, Writings, Books of Accompt, and to examine all ſuch parties and witneſſes upon oath, as may tend to the ſetting forth of right and truth, and the diſcovery of deceit and fraud, and to reſtore to each party according to juſtice and equity.

And your Petitioners ſhall ever pray, &c.

THis preſents witneſſeth, That we the Adventurers in the Farms of 40 *ſhil. per Tonne* and Wine-Licenſes, do give order unto the Worſhipfull *William Abell* Alderman of the City of *London*, *Richard Kilvert* Eſquire, Maſter *Robert Shawe*, Maſter *Edward Darlinge*, Maſter *Ralph Moore*, and Maſter *George Griffith*, to make an abſolute end with the Right Honourable *George* Lord *Goring*, concerning his three thouſand pounds *per annum* out of the Wine-Licenſes, and what they conclude we will allow, and for what moneys ſhall be taken up at Intereſt by any towards payment of that buſineſſe, we will ſave them harmleſſe for our proportions adventured. In witneſs whereof we have hereunto put our hands the 15th. *November*, 1639.

Edward Kynaſtone
Richard Kilvert
Matthew Forſter
Jacob Bonamye
Robert Lee
Andrew Courtman
Fran. Aſhwell
John Gregory
Thomas Symcottes
John Wilcocks
Thomas Darlinge
Thomas Goughe
Ralph Hutchinſon
William Abell
Rowland Wilſon
William Conradus
Henry Sanders
Ralph King
Henry Croone
George Stanley

Chr.

Chr. Metcalfe *William Jhanns*
Edward Terry *Thomas Dudley*
Ioseph Rogers *Cornelius Cooke*
William Kempster *Mark Hildesley*
William Dickins *Thomas Cox.*

Will. Abell

Bound to *George Gaell* Gent. in a Bond of 1200 *li.* to pay 676, the Bond is dated the 27 of May 1640 payable the 27 of November following. 676

Will. Abell
Rob. Shaw
E. Darling

Bound to *Edmond Hamond* in a Bond of 1500 *li.* to pay 1037 *li.* 10 *sh.* the Bond is dated the 18 of November 1639, due the 20 of May 1640. 1037-10

Will. Abel
E. Darling
W. Dickins

Bound to Sir *Jarvis Elwes* in a Bond of 800 *li.* to pay 520, the Bond is dated the 16 of May 1639 payable the 18 of November following. 520

Will. Abell
W. Leechland
Rob. Shaw
Ral. Moore.

Bound to *Peter Bulteel* Merchant in a Bond of 1000 *li.* to pay 624, the Bond is dated the 16 of June 1640, payable the 24 of December following. 624

William

Will. Abell
W. Leechland
Rob. Shawe
Ral. Moore

Bound to *Richard Woodward* Esq. in a Bond of 1000 *li.* to pay 622 *li.* 10 *ſh.* The Bond is dated the 15 of June 1640, payable the 17 of December following. } 622-10

Will. Abell.
W. Leechland
Rob. Shaw
Ral. Moor

Bound to Dame *Anne Moulſon* in a Bond of 2200 *li.* to pay 1556 *li.* 5 *ſh.* The Bond is dated the 15 of June 1640, payable the 17 of December following. } 1556-5

William Abell is damnified by the Co-partnerſhip over and above theſe Bonds,

Robert

Robert Shaw is damnified by the Co-partnership, over and obove these Bonds,

Ralph Moore obscures himself, so as he cannot be taken by Arrest.

Edward Darlingr, *William Leechland*, and *William Dickins*, are all three deceased, and plead no Assettes, yet were all three supposed to have left great estates behinde them.

A Perticular of the Names of the Co-adventurers, with their perticular Adventures, as they are ſet down nnder the hand of Mr. Geor. Griffith *one of the Farmers or Cortractors, and now Maſter of the Company of Vintners.*

Alderman *Abel*	1000 li.	mr. *Hilleſley.*	750
Mr. *Davis.*	1000	mr. *Tho. Cox*	500 }
Mr. *Darling.*	1000	mr. *Corn Cook*	250 } 2000
Mr. *Leechland.*	1000	mr. *He. Lee Vi.*	250 }
Mr. *Ralph Moore.*	1000	mr. *R. Meers*	250
Mr. *Griffith.*	1000	mr. *Gregory,*	1000
Mr. *Courtman*	1000	mr. *Simcots.*	1000
Captain *Forſter.*	1000	mr. *Dudley.*	0500
Mr. *Hamond.*	1000	mr. *Wilcoxe.*	1000
Mr. *Rowland Wilſon.*	1000	mr. *R. Hutchinſon,*	1000
Mr. *Bowyer*	2500	mr. *Rogers.*	0500
Mr. *T Hutchinſon.*	2500	mr. *Crone.*	0500
mr. *Rich Kilvert.*	1000	mr. *Robert Lee*	0500
mr. *Robert Shaw.*	1000	Capt. *Sanders.*	0500
mr. *Matthew Terry*	250	mr. *Meacalf,*	0500
mr. *Edward Terry*	250	mr. *Gough.*	0500
mr. *Ed. Kinaſton.*	500	Ca *Geor Langham.*	1000
mr. *Kimpſter.*	500	mr. *Dickens.*	1000
mr. *Bonamy* 500	1000	mr. *G. Stanley* 500	1000
mr. *Hancock* 500		mr *Ihanns* 500	
mr. *King.*	500	mr. *Roger Kilvert*	1000
mr. *Conradus.*	500	mr. *Thomas Darlin*	0500
mr. *Aſhvel*	1000	mr *H. Lee* merchant	1000
		mr. *Hubert.*	1000

m

25

cud